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WALTERS RECEIVES LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR LACKLAND A.F.B. BOMB INCIDENT

(SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS) This morning, United States District Judge Orlando Garcia sentenced 30-year-old **BRANDON L. WALTERS** to life in federal prison for orchestrating a bomb explosion which severely injured a first sergeant at the Lackland Air Force Base Medina Annex last year.

Specifically, Judge Garcia sentenced the former airman to consecutive sentences of 262 months in federal prison for assault on a federal officer, damaging a federal building with explosives proximately causing personal injury, and possession of an unregistered firearm; 30 years imprisonment for use of a destructive device in relation to the assault on a federal officer; and life in federal prison for use of a destructive device in relation to damaging a federal building.

In addition to the prison time, Judge Garcia ordered that Walters pay restitution in excess of \$400,000 to the first sergeant and in excess of \$13,000 to the government.

On June 27, 2002, a federal jury convicted Walters of the charges. The evidence showed that Walters—angry at being discharged from the Air Force for defying authority and engaging in confrontational behavior—placed a bomb in a package addressed to his former first sergeant and left it in a restroom in the Medina Annex so that someone would find it and deliver it to his intended victim. On July 31, 2001, the bomb detonated in first sergeant's office. The discharged shrapnel severed her left hand and portions of her fingers on her right hand. The explosion also caused shrapnel and burn damage to her face, head, torso and arms.

"Mr. Walters earned every day of the life sentence he received today by committing a cowardly, evil, and senseless attack against an innocent victim. He will have a lifetime behind bars to consider the devastation he caused the victim and her loved ones," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

Sutton praised the efforts of Assistant United States Attorney Karen Norris and investigators with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Air Force Office of Special Investigations and the San Antonio Police Department for bringing Walters to justice.

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“The conduct of this important investigation required close cooperation and teamwork among the numerous law enforcement agencies involved, and the United States Attorney’s Office,” stated FBI San Antonio Special Agent Steve McCraw. “The outcome of the trial and the sentence imposed on Walters serves justice and obviously speaks volumes to the success of these efforts.”

“This investigation exemplifies the cooperative effort that we have here in San Antonio among our law enforcement community and the United States Attorney’s Office. There were many individuals that assisted in this investigation which helped us make an arrest of Mr. Walters within a few days of the bombing. Justice is served today with the sentencing of Mr. Walters to life imprisonment,” stated ATF San Antonio Resident Agent in Charge Robert Rowe.

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